RESOLUTION NUMBER 24 PRIORITIES FOR THE PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE AND UTILITIES COMMITTEE

WHEREAS, basic services for city residents are the primary responsibility of city government. The continuity of services such as trash pick up, coordination with utilities, and street and sidewalk maintenance has been a top concern for residents and has contributed to the growing concerns regarding traffic violence and inadequate essential public services; and

WHEREAS, creating a safer city for all residents through better street and sidewalk infrastructure is a top priority. According to a 2022 traffic data report, the total number of people killed on St. Louis City streets was the second highest on record, with a total of 78 people losing their lives to traffic violence. Severe injuries and fatalities are preventable through a multidisciplinary systems approach; and

WHEREAS, dedicated funding for street infrastructure and utilities projects could eliminate the barriers the city faces to streamline public services. The Streets Department and the Board of Public Service can work together to lead decision making regarding street calming measures, ADA compliance, and infrastructure planning; and

WHEREAS, due to historical redlining of the city, inequities affect certain neighborhoods of the city more than others. Currently, ward capital is used as a main source of funding for major projects, contributing to both the ineffectiveness and inequity of the system. Furthermore, community input of how ward capital should be spent can create a more participatory process; and

WHEREAS, there has been increased stress on our infrastructure due to environmental changes, including more frequent flooding, heat islands, and other weather-related events that cause harm to the residents of St. Louis.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the 2023-2024 Public Infrastructure and Utilities Committee will focus its work on policy that addresses improving city services, empowering city departments within its purview, creating more equitable and efficient standards, allowing constituent feedback regarding ward capital, and redesigning our streets for safety.

Introduced this 25th day of May, 2023 by:
The Honorable Anne Schweitzer, Alderwoman 1st Ward
Cosponsors:
The Honorable Megan Green, President of the Board of Aldermen
The Honorable Michael Browning, Alderman 9th Ward

Adopted this 25th day of May, 2023 as attested by:

Terry Kennedy Megan Green
Clerk, Board of Aldermen President, Board of Aldermen